

FROM JOHNSTOWN PA.

Since our last letter to the EVANGELIST, we have been earnestly striving to make our meeting interesting in order to attract those who are inclined to seek places of amusement. On Friday evening, March 8, we were pleased to have present, Brother Ross, who is traveling in the interest of the Brethren Book and Tract Committee. Brother Ross is an enthusiastic worker who is especially interested in the welfare of the rising generation.

The program of that evening was a very curious one, which consisted of extemporaneous exercises by each member of the society. The novelty made this meeting interesting, even though the program was not so well rendered. Some of the topics were: Sing a solo, make a perfect free-hand circle, discuss swearing, and whistle a solo. At the last business meeting, the society obligated itself to pay fifty cents to the Tract Committee for the publishing of tracts, and also to secure five new subscribers for the EVANGELIST. Brothers Summersgill and Longnecker subscribed for it, then the society decided to donate it to the Johnstown Memorial Hospital, The Young Mens' Christian Association and a member of the church. Am sure the paper will be appreciated.

We were sorry to lose one of our most faithful and energetic workers, sister Amanda Strayer, who, since our last writing, moved with her parents to Model City, New York, where they expect to make their future home.

The last meeting was a musical entertainment, and the selections consisting of vocal and instrumental solos, duets, and quartets were well rendered and appreciated by a large and attentive audience. The crowning event of the entertainment was the closing song, "We'll have to mortgage the farm." All the exercises were under the careful management of brother W. Z. Repogle. The program next week promises to be an instructive one, consisting of the life of Whittier and reading, declamations and tableau from his writings. We are anxiously expecting a visit from our worthy president. Sister Laura do not disappoint us, for I know you will be cordially received.

COR. SEC'Y.

THERE is inestimable blessing in a cheerful spirit. When the soul throws its windows wide open, letting in the sunshine, and presenting to all who see it the evidence of its gladness, it is not only happy, but it has an unspeakable power of doing good. To all the other beatitudes may be added, "Blessed are the joy-makers."

THE emptiest men are the fullest of self.

Book and Tract Work.

THE HIGHER CRITICS.

Samson had his locks cut and lost his strength. The higher critics are attempting to cut the locks of the church, and as they succeed the strength is gone. Not long ago at a Baptist Convention, Prof. Harper and his chum read a paper sustaining the so-called higher critics. At the conclusion, a good Baptist preacher said he would read a paper and then tell the name of the writer. He read the paper, which was along the line and very much like Harper's. Said the preacher, that paper was written a hundred years ago; the writer was Tom Paine. The preacher saw the point and when the applause died away the higher critics looked like they had been sheep killing. So they had, sheep in the Master's fold. The higher critics, so-called, are the devil's right hand men, convenient when Deliah uses the shears on the locks of Samson.

A stool in his path.—It is said an old philosopher used to go out star gazing. One night a woman threw a stool in his path over which he fell and broke his shins. When asked why she done a thing like that, she said she wanted him to look at home. Now I will not advocate throwing a stool in the path of the opponents of Christ, but would it not be a good thing to have them look at home. "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord." Jer. 23:1. One way the sheep are scattered is by the expressed skepticism of professors of religion. The pulpit is made a channel for slush, and schools a repository for isms. Let the presses go to work and with their million arms scatter the word and pure literature that will lead to the word. This is what the tract workers are doing. Throw them in the path of anti-Christ. Work behind the scenes. Picking up a paper from my old home in Harper's Ferry, I noticed an account of an entertainment given by the M. P. lads and the lasses. The following line attracted my attention: "Miss Mollie McFaden was a faithful worker behind the scenes." That describes the character of sister, exactly, "a faithful worker behind the scenes." I thought the entertainment not only needed faithful workers behind the scenes, but all successful work demanded such workers. This is most true of church work. Take the paper and Sunday-school literature, and tract work, as it is received at the office and read in the home, clean and helpful, but few appreciate the almost endless work behind the scenes. The plans, the thousand details, the endless efforts, that you might

be benefited as an individual and the borders of the church might be extended for God's glory. Is it not a little thing then to help make this work more successful by a little effort on your part, and a little giving of the much God has given you? Put your hand to the rope, let the curtain go up, and the world see salvation.

Stars preaching.—A French student of the stars says that on the night of good Friday the stars will occupy the same position they did the night Christ was crucified. The idea is a very suggestive one, and calculated to make one think the stars fought against the enemies of God. They also preach to the followers of Christ. Students of church history, testify that the church has departed from her original position, the hundreds of denominations with their pass-words bear evidence of the students' testimony. The church should seek her old position, and finding should take it. This seems to me the aim and work of the Brethren church. The object of her organization and reorganizations, and to this end her literature should be directed, if the rank and file of the church would only appreciate this great work. There would be no lack of means to carry it on.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN,

King's Children.

THE INVITATION COMMITTEE.

This committee should ever be active, to interest more church goers and strangers in the work and to make them feel at home in our meetings. Only those who travel and know what it is to be a stranger in a strange place know the feeling of welcome with which an invitation to attend services is received. When we have our literaries, this committee should be sure to invite the strangers to them as well as to our regular devotional and praise meetings. And especially should they remember the aged, and invite them to all our meetings. I shall endeavor to write regularly on the various departments of the work and in my next will answer a number of queries as to who may become members of the society, etc.

J. O. TALLEY, Pres.

P. S.—Don't be afraid to ask strangers to attend meetings.

HERE thou art but a stranger traveling to thy country, where the glories of a kingdom are prepared for thee; it is therefore a huge folly to be much affected, because thou hast a less convenient inn to lodge in by the way.—*Jeremy Taylor*.

HE who sits at Christ's feet here shall sit on His throne hereafter.